



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

HOMICIDE IN AMERICAN CITIES

THE PARDON OF ALBERT T. PATRICK.

Albert T. Patrick some twelve years ago was brought to trial in New York for the premeditated murder of an old man, William Marsh Rice, his benefactor. The evidence tended to show that the purpose of the murder was to enrich the murderer by obtaining possession of the estate of his victim by means of a forged will. Patrick, himself a shrewd lawyer, had the benefit of unlimited financial resources at his trial through the assistance of relatives of means. The jury trying the case was one of exceptional intelligence and after a protracted trial found Patrick guilty. He was sentenced to be electrocuted. Then began the enactment of the usual series of appeals in such cases that tend to bring the whole system of administration of criminal law into general disrepute. The motion for a new trial was submitted in a brief of several hundred pages and embraced all the points which human ingenuity could invent, yet after long argument and deliberation the motion was denied and on appeal to the highest tribunal in the state the conviction was affirmed.

The sentence of death was later commuted to one of life imprisonment and later two governors refused further clemency.

In the face of these facts Governor Dix, after a secret hearing at which there were present pleaders whose identity the Governor declines to disclose, issued a full pardon to Patrick and in his announcement of the pardon states that *after his release* he hopes Patrick will demonstrate *his innocence*.

This act of Governor Dix, while one of the most striking abuses of executive clemency in recent times and an example to the entire country of the failure of the law to work justice, will have served a good purpose if it causes legislation doing away with the power of any executive, after a secret hearing, to set aside the decision of an established court of law, and removing wholly from pardoning power any criminal sentenced to life imprisonment, requiring that such cases must be brought before a pardoning board at an open hearing on newly discovered evidence and limiting the power of such board to an order for a new trial.

FREDERIC B. CROSSLEY

HOMICIDE IN AMERICAN CITIES.

Mr. F. L. Hoffman, statistician for the Prudential Insurance Company, in a recent number of the *Spectator*, a New York insurance journal, analyzed the homicide record of thirty American cities and compared the results with the record of England and Wales.